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'U.S. Believes Soviet Missile Hit U-2 Plane

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WASHINGTON — The

Kennedy administration has concluded that the U-2 reconnaissance jet lost over Cuba during the October crisis last year was probably shot down by a Soviet surface-to-air missile.

In previously top secret testimony before the House defense appropriations subcommittee made public Friday, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara declared:

"On the 27th of October, as you remember, a U-2 and its pilot, Maj. (Rudolf) Anderson, were lost in the vicinity of Banes . . .

Strong Indication

"Although it cannot be proven conclusively that the U-2 was shot down by a Soviet surface-to-air missile, there is enough information to indicate it was probably shot down by such a missile."

The circumstances of Anderson's death were not

made public during the crisis.

McNamara said the Strategic Air Command began high altitude U-2 flights over Cuba on Oct. 14, eight days before the shipping quarantine was announced, and indicated the flights were continuing on a weekly basis at least through the time of his testimony on Feb. 7.

Asked how effective the post-crisis flights were, the secretary replied:

"I believe that our aerial reconnaissance over Cuba today is such that we would receive adequate warning of the reintroduction of offensive systems."

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